



FISH TALE

SERMON STUDY - 5.4.2025

Leader Corner

The Uncomfortable Question

Jonah 4:5-11

Leader Corner: This section of Jonah reminds me of the preacher who said that his best and most used spiritual gift was pouting. Jonah could see no reason for God's compassion to his enemies, so he sulked. God has a question, and a lesson for Jonah and us. What can we learn about ourselves, Jonah, and more importantly—about Jesus, from these verses?

Main Idea: What uncomfortable question does God have for you?

Main Practice: Loving others because God first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Main Teaching: Jonah 4:5-11

Connect with Prayer & Praise

Read 1 John 4:7-12 aloud, then pray over your group as you prepare to study this passage.



with Principle

1. Read aloud Jonah 4:5-11.
2. Bring up anything in last week's sermon that you found interesting or challenging.
3. Why did Jonah go and overlook the city? What did he want to see? Did he want to see the city thrive after repentance, or was he hoping they would fall back into sin and lose God's mercy? What does scripture say about our approach to our enemies? Helpful scriptures: Proverbs 24:17-20, 25:21-22, Matthew 5:43-45, Romans 12:19, 1 Peter 3:9.
4. Jesus preached salvation to His enemies with love, mercy and compassion. Jonah preached salvation under compulsion, with reluctance and with disdain. Can you recall other instances in the Bible where God uses hesitant servants to do His will? What lessons are there for us in this? See Exodus 4:10-13, Judges 6:14-16, 1 Samuel 16:1-2, Proverbs 16:4, Acts 9:10-18.
5. Steven Davey states in his commentary on Jonah, "Everything in the book obeyed God except Jonah; the waves, the great fish, the wind, the sun, the plant, the worm, and even the Ninevites." What are some possible reasons we don't obey God's instructions? Look at Proverbs 3:5-7, Matthew 7:21-23, Luke 9:23, John 14:21, Colossians 2:8, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 1 John 2:3-6.
6. The contrast between Jonah and Jesus is, in many ways, a picture of man's idolatry. Jonah wishes to punish his enemies, enjoy God's good gifts, and do his own will while Jesus lovingly offers His enemies forgiveness at the cost of His Father's punishment in order to do God's will. Jonah placed his idols above God's will and the love of God while Jesus submitted entirely to God's will. What idols can come between us and God? Share with each other and share the following scriptures: John 12:42-43, Galatians 5:19-21, Colossians 3:5.

with Practice

As a group, pray for each other that we may overcome any reluctance to follow God's Word in our lives. Pray that our witness to unbelievers will be free of reluctance, fear or idolatry.

for Further Study

Read or recall Jesus' parable of the two sons in Luke 15:11-32. What similarities do you see between the elder brother and Jonah? Check your own attitudes against theirs.